

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE


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In re Application of: Jeffrey Wade Harper, Stephen J. Elledge, and Jeffrey T. Winston  
Divisional of Serial No.: 09/172,841  
Filed: October 15, 1998  
Group Art Unit: 1644  
Examiner: Mary Tung

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Linda L. Gibson

**BOX: PATENT APPLICATION**  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please find below Applicants' Preliminary Amendment that accompanies the request for filing a divisional application under 37 CFR §1.53(b) filed herewith. Please amend the divisional patent application filed herewith as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 1, please the amend the first sentence to provide the following reference to the previous application: This application is a Divisional Application of pending United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/172,841, filed on October 15, 1998 and claims